

12-2015

## Get Clear. Get Close. Get Clean.

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### Recommended Citation

St. Clair, Becky, "Get Clear. Get Close. Get Clean." (2015). *Lake Union Herald*. 103.  
<https://digitalcommons.andrews.edu/luh-pubs/103>

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## Get Clear. Get Close. Get Clean.

### Finding proximity with God

“Last year, as team of chaplains, we asked the Lord to fill us with a vision of how Andrews can be useful for what his purpose is right now,” says June Price, University chaplain. “I firmly believe that God placed our chaplain team together, in this particular mix of three people with a particular mission in mind, and we need to know what it is. If we’re left to our own devices, we will be nothing but flesh on parade, and that won’t bring glory to God.”

Price and her associate chaplains, Michael Polite and José Bourget, began the year under the conviction to independently seek God’s desire for Campus Ministries. Then, in early fall, after a few weeks of private prayer, the team spent a day in collective prayer, asking God to reveal his plan. At the end of the day, they all felt a singular thread confirmed in their hearts: “I need to be close to my people again.”

“We’ve become too busy, too cold or too stiff-necked, as God said to the Israelites, that we aren’t really in connection with God anymore,” says Price. “So, we asked God what that would look like here in Campus Ministries and on campus. We began to share with each other what God had placed on our hearts. Immediately, texts such as James 4:8: *Draw close to me and I will draw close to you* came flooding into our minds.”

Out of this time of surrender, the word “proximity” was birthed as a vision of operation for Campus Ministries. This vision is based on Jesus’ prayer in John 17. Proximity: Get Clear. Get Close. Get Clean.

“The Proximity vision is a simplified, yet comprehensive, description of the gospel,” says Polite. “In a society where biblical literacy is becoming less common, the emerging generation thrives on ‘no frills’ teaching that promises easy-to-follow, logical steps.



Students find closer proximity to God through prayer during University Vespers.

Proximity will offer our students the simplicity they value while simultaneously offering them a Christocentric spiritual plan.”

What does Proximity look like, exactly?

“Get Clear” means to know God for who he really is. “The effect of being in close proximity with God yields a clarity of who he is,” says Price. “Not what my culture says he is, or what my projection of him is, but a deep, serious hunger to let him teach me.”

“Get Close” means not only getting closer to Christ, but closer to each other. Jesus prayed, in John 17:21, *I pray that they will all be one, just as you and I are one — as you are in me, Father, and I am in you.*

“This isn’t ‘come-and-feel-good’ spirituality, but spirituality that requires us to grow in our walk with God and with other people,” says Bourget.

“Get Clean” means to be sanctified through truth. Jesus asks the Father to sanctify man through his truth in John 17:17.

Our cleanness comes not through our own ideals or even our good works, but through God’s work in our lives and our proximity to him.

“Where are you in relation to God?” Price explains. “We need to thirst for a deeper proximity to God. John 17:3 says

that eternal life is knowing God and Jesus Christ, whom he sent. We need that, and it needs to be perfectly clear to us.”

The three chaplains alternately will speak on each of these three outgrowths of Proximity on Friday evenings during the fall semester. There also are plans in place for a Bible study, led by Price, specifically focusing on “Get Clear,” along with numerous other discipleship endeavors to invite a close proximity to God.

“Until we’re willing to see God without manipulating him to our liking, we can’t be clear on who he really is,” Price explains. “We’re going to meet the students where they are, and give them a catalyst for deeper conversations and exploration into God and into their own faith. Proximity to God isn’t an arrival point; it’s a lifelong journey.”

Becky St. Clair, media communications manager, Division of Integrated Marketing & Communication



*This year Campus Ministries has a specific focus for the campus to become clear on who God is, draw close to him and others, and find cleanness as a result.*